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**Supreme Court.**

E. G. Peyton, Chief Justice.  
H. P. Kimball, Associate Judge.  
J. Farwell, Associate Judge.  
James McKee, Clerk.  
Thomas McWille, Deputy Clerk.

**It will be pleasant if we could recall Horace Greeley to life and take a ride with him between him and Grant. The people have opened their eyes, unfortunately, too late.**—Cincinnati Enquirer, Anti-Greeley Bourbon.

**Virginia, recognizing no such obligation as to her to any national party or organization, maintaining her fidelity to all who are and who shall become allies in the defense of measures calculated to secure the ends named, is ready to co-operate cordially with men of whatever party in upholding these measures, by whomsoever proposed—supporting those who support them, and opposing all opposition to them.**—GOVERNOR KEMPER, of Virginia.

**It (the Democratic victory in Ohio) means that dead issues shall remain dead issues, and that no party can succeed upon any but living issues of the day.**—Allen G. Thurman, of Ohio.

**The new opposition—the party of liberty and independence—marches to the front with banners whose "friction" is already inscribed. It is the party of the future which the country has longed and waited for. The people have called it into being, and the politicians by profession may just as well recognize and accept the fact at once; for it will not retire at their bidding. It has a mission to fulfill. It will fulfill its mission, and will not neglect the fulfillment to any other.**—Chicago Times, Bourbon.

**All the old issues have passed away and henceforth new ones will arise. The Democratic party will LIBERALIZE its organization; and if it is done wisely, so as to unite the elements of dissatisfaction against the present order, they may be able to elect a President. The name need not necessarily be changed, BUT THE PARTY MUST BE ESSENTIALLY A NEW ONE.**—D. W. Voorhees, of Indiana.

**The dawn of a new epoch in politics is upon us. There will soon be a breaking up of the elements of present party organizations.**—A. H. Stephens on Civil Rights.

**Both political parties are rotten from centre to circumference. In Congress both parties participate in all the rascality. If one party happens to monopolize a particular steel it is because the other can't get a chance. We talk loudly of reform, but the first step towards reform is to sweep both of the rotten old parties out of existence.**—Henry A. Wise, of Virginia.

**Pencil and Paste-Pot.**

Last Wednesday night this vicinity was visited by a considerable frost; but not enough, we think, to seriously injure vegetation. At this writing the weather is clear and cool. Farmers are making use of the golden opportunity, and are moving ahead with their farm work.—Fayette Watchman.

**The trains on the Starkville Branch are now running regular to Sessonsville, seven miles from town.**—Starkville News Era.

**The graders on the Branch have been making the dirt fly the past week. It is to be hoped that the weather will continue favorable, we have had enough bad.**—Ibid.

**Some thief made a raid on Moss Bradwell, a freedman, who keeps a small Confectionary and cake shop, on last Sunday night, and helped him or themselves plentifully to Moss' good things.**—Ibid.

**The weather for the past week has been such as to gladden the hearts of our people, and shorten in a great degree, the long faces that were to be met daily on our streets. With favorable weather and good seasons, all may be well.**—Ibid.

**We notice in the Congressional reports that on the 2d inst. Senator Alcorn presented joint resolutions of the Mississippi Legislature asking for an appropriation for the improvement of the Tombigbee. The matter was referred to the Committee on Commerce.**

**The Memphis papers—Appeal and Avalanche—have abandoned their Monday morning issue as unprofitable, and gone back to six a week.**

**Independence, not Intemperance.**

The South does not want independence, if it means the separation of the nation. If it means the separation of the nation, she would receive little or no benefit from it. What has she got to bring and keep? Money, or capital, goes where there are manufactures, where the people are self-sustaining and out of debt. Under our present agricultural and non-manufacturing system, it would make little difference with us if the amount of currency thrown upon the country was increased one hundred millions instead of the forty odd millions, as proposed by the "late lamented" bill in Congress.

The truth is, the South is little else than a profitable feeder to other sections. We make an annual cotton crop, it is true, and that crop whirls the spindles of the universe. But we get very little for it, and of what we do get, one part goes East to pay for our Dry Goods, and the other to the North-West to pay for our Provisions. The South ought to make its own cotton goods and raise its own breadstuffs. Until she does it, she will continue worse than the bondsman of a slave, filling the pockets of the high tariff New Englander, and the prudent hog raiser of Indiana and Kentucky. As it is, our cotton crop benefits all the world but ourselves, for we make it so large as to glut the market every year, which reduces the price, and the profits almost to starvation. A small cotton crop, with home supplies produced at home, would exactly reverse the situation, and there would be no tightness in the money market; consequently, inflation would not be clamored for by many Southerners.

We believe the only trouble with the great North-West is, that she overdoes the corn crop. There must be something wrong in Iowa, for instance, where corn is burnt for fuel. A smaller crop would feed the South, at the same time, give that people more opportunities to diversify and encourage manufactures, and thus control the exorbitant Railroad freights, which are the bane of their lives. It must be the faulty cropping system of this and that section that explains the existence of ardent inflationists there.

On the other hand, look at the East. With her bleak hills, she yet controls all other sections, and Congress, too, by her manufactures. She hoards money in her banks. She is self-sustaining, hence, she prospers.

Again, look at the "mighty West." California, for example, will produce 40,000,000 bushels of wheat this year—enough for a bushel to every inhabitant of the United States. She is self-sustaining, and, we are told, she hardly felt the late panic.

The South has the natural advantages over all other sections of the Union. Where she is now a debtor-slave, she might be the creditor-mistress. If we make plenty to eat and feed, we need send no money to St. Louis for corn and bacon, and we can stand carpet bag taxation a great deal easier. If, with this food crop, we raise a small cotton crop, we get a big price for it, and that is surplus money, to be kept and circulated amongst ourselves. Any man of any observation knows that in neighborhoods, States, or nations, where the barns and smoke-houses are full, and manufactories are fixed, there money is plentiful and changing hands. We dare any farmer in Lowndes county to point out a self-sustaining brother who has not, generally, money to spend, and who is not out of debt to his commission and grocery merchant. He cannot do it. Climate and favorable seasons are great things, we admit, but there is no stimulus to immigration so powerful as the knowledge that a country encourages artisans, makes its own provisions, and thereby pays with greater ease any taxation imposed.

A colored section hand of Ala. Central R. R., was drowned at Hall's Creek bridge, two miles west of the Bigbee, this afternoon. Some bridge tinslers fell in with him and caught him so he could not be rescued till drowned.—Mercury.

A train with long piles backed to the river at Pascagoula last Thursday, so we learn from the Star, a little too rapidly and pushed the end platform car, loaded with pine logs over into the river; at least the first set of trucks ran off and most of the car, and it was cut away near the other trucks and allowed to go, and now lies at the bottom of the river. A lot of negroes on the car arose and scattered like blackbirds, and two went into the river, but came out safely.—Mobile Graphic.

The West Point Times thinks that a scarcity of cotton seed this year, where replanting has become necessary, will prove to be a blessing in disguise, as it will cause the planting of more corn.

**Another New Departure.**

Among the few business houses of the country enjoying the confidence of the entire public, and distinguished for its enterprise, DEVLIN & CO., of New York, stand at the head of the clothing trade; and we take pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to a new feature they have introduced in their business, and are extensively advertising.

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**EFFICACY OF PRAYER.**

Read Before the Ministers' Association of Columbus.

We desire in this paper to emphasize the fact that God hears prayer. We who receive the Bible as the revelation of God's will can have no assurance more certain than its explicit teaching on this subject. But this teaching is explained and demonstrated to us by our own personal communings with God. There is in the world a mighty army of witnesses, whose integrity of character, clearness of mental vision, honesty of purpose, and earnestness of duty, are not excelled by any; they are trying to make happy homes and pleasant communities; to build up noble states and widespread charities; devoted to the best purposes of human life, they grieve when evil abounds, and rejoice when good prevails; they are the "light of the world" and the salt of the earth; each one of this vast multitude has a clear record of personal communion with God. They would doubt the testimony of the eye as to seeing, or the witness of the ear as to hearing, as soon as doubt the assurance of consciousness as to divine communion. Then add to this that every generation of men in all the past has had its multitudes of witnesses to the same great truth. All this weight of testimony blending with our own constant experience, and explained by assurances which come from every part of the Bible; backed by all the evidence of verity which God through all the ages has thrown around the record of His will; these together make the strongest evidence that can be given of the efficacy of prayer. We could doubt any phenomena of life with as much consistency as we could doubt this.

But all are not thus assured, and it is necessary to study this subject that we may be able to remove the difficulties from many sincere minds. Many good men are troubled by a want of clearness as to the necessity of prayer in view of the unchangeableness of God's nature and purpose; for with him "is no variable shadow of turning." But prayer does not suppose any change in God, either as to nature or purpose. It is His nature and His purpose to bless men when they are in a condition to be blessed. Prayer puts them in that condition. The change is all in man, not in God. There are certain powers which are dependent on the direct rays of the sun for fructification. These turn to the sun in the morning and follow him through the day. This turning is their prayer for help. So man's nature must be turned to God in order that all the good possible to him may be developed and refined. Prayer turns the unfolding seed of our nature to God, and His love warms us into life and joy.

Another difficulty supposed by many learned men to show the utter futility of prayer, is the unchangeableness of the laws of nature. The entire universe, they tell us, is governed by laws unchangeable; the world was made by them; and every breeze that sweeps the earth, and cloud that waters the face of nature, are controlled by laws as immutable as the very source of things. The immutability of law, it is also urged, applies to the action of mind and soul, even to the generation of thoughts and spiritual aspirations, and hence the utter futility of prayer. But the fallacy of prayer even on this supposition, and viewed at this disadvantage is not so clearly seen; because it is certain that prayers are offered, and if all things are fixed by laws, then prayers are so fixed, and it cannot be shown that the answers to them have not been fixed by the same unchangeable laws.

But this is by no means the answer we wish to make to this supposed difficulty. Of course we believe the universe is controlled by laws. This is evidence to us of a great lawgiver. Laws cannot reign in any other sense than that of subjection to a superior will. They are the servants; not the masters of the universe. We do not pray to changeable laws, but to the God of laws, and that by a law as we believe of His own make. If we are to determine the existence of a law by the constant recurrence of phenomena under given circumstances, then we must believe that it is a law of our nature to pray. If we determine that gravitation is a universal law of nature by observing its presence in every form of matter; if by the constant recurrence of a desire and necessity for food we determine that it is a law of nature to eat; or by the constant action of the lungs that it is a law of our nature to breathe; then on the same ground we are to determine that it is a law of our nature to pray. The desire to pray, the felt necessity of prayer, is universal; it is born in us. More hearts respond to the vital power of this feeling in us than, with few exceptions, to any other instinct of our nature. In every part of the world, surrounded by every form of error, men are praying. Men on that low level of development where mind yet creeps along the soil, and centres devotion in some temporary fetish, are praying. People whose higher developments reveal in the mazes of Buddhism, or in the splendors of Brahminism, rights are praying. And millions of souls whose clearer vision sweeps beyond the stars and grasps the grand conception of infinity in God, and of that God full of love making himself manifest in Christ to the suffering world, these, too, are praying. The law of prayer touches all hearts and vibrates responsive to all human anxiety. This law has its place among the other laws of being, and no more violates them than they violate it. As well prescribe eating, or breathing, or gravitation, as prayer. One law has as much right to exist as another. Is the law of prayer deceptive? As well think the longing of the eye for light, the solicitude of the ear for sound, or the

gasping of the lungs for air, is deceptive. The soul as naturally calls for divine help as our organs call for the elements or aptitudes of nature by which they are gratified and sustained. Every one must perceive that as prayer is a law of our being it must have its appropriate place and act in harmony with all the laws of the universe. It can no more be violated with impunity than can other laws of nature. The conception that prayer is a law of our nature connecting us to God brings with it this comfortable assurance, that no true prayer is ever lost; what we pray for may not be granted; but better than that is done; the soul is blessed as God sees its needs. Respectfully submitted, W. S. HARRISON.

**NEW ORLEANS TO VICKSBURG IN A FLOATING PALACE.**

At 3 P. M., April 21st 1874, we left the Delta City on board the "Thompson Dean," one of the strongest and best appointed steamers that travels the Father of Rivers. The day was delightful, the last tidings were said, the lines "cast off" and we soon leave behind the multitude of people on the wharf, signifying by waving hats and handkerchiefs, their wishes that we may have a safe and pleasant trip. Taking our position on the upper deck, we gazed upon the retreating city for many miles. Any one who has never seen the Mississippi river at New Orleans, can scarcely realize the unusual appearance of the surroundings, from the fact that the surface of the river is some 8 or 10 feet above the streets of the city. From the steamer you actually look down upon the town and adjoining country on either side; this peculiarity continues with a varying height for several hundred miles; there is occasionally a higher point, but most the way a levee is required to keep the river within its banks—for some weeks past it has been higher than for several years before—not only threatening its banks, forming what is here termed a "Crevasse." Whenever one of these breaches occur, it opens a rapidly enlarging gateway for the superabundance of turbid waters to pass, carrying destruction to crops, stock and in some cases inhabitants. There are several Parishes thus submerged, embracing many thousand acres of the best lands of Louisiana; the people are driven from their homes, having lost every thing, crops, stock and personal property, all swept away.

Calls for assistance are being made upon the State, cities, and the general Government, to furnish the necessities of life, supplies; including food, clothing and money, are forwarded as rapidly as possible; these donations come from all sections of the country, prompted by a spontaneous feeling of sympathy for suffering humanity—an innate principle which knows no sectional lines. We are all one great brotherhood and should always be ready and willing to lend a helping hand to those in distress.

You must excuse this digression—it had to be written to relieve my mind and express my views. Will now resume my sketch and try to give you a faint description of the steamer "Thompson Dean," her route is to and from Cincinnati and New Orleans, stopping only at the larger places on the way. She was built in 1871 and began her regular trip on the first of January, 1872, is over 300 feet in length, correspondingly wide and deep, with a carrying capacity of 1800 tons of freight, and 140 passengers—cost \$180,000. She is commanded by Capt. Pepper. Mr. Miller clerk, both pleasant and affable gentlemen. From these figures you can form some idea of the "Dean"; but it is quite impossible to describe the magnificent finish of the saloon, and state rooms, they shine and glitter with gold leaf; the chandeliers are elegant, and the saloon furniture is made to correspond, while the table furniture and fare is equal to the best hotels. We have attractive bills of fare and all the meals are served in the best style, with music by the band while we are eating. Each passenger is assigned his seat at the table, finds his name on a card in his plate, in short there seems to have been nothing left undone that could add to the comfort and safety of the passengers, of whom there are nearly 100 on board this trip. You can travel on such a steamer as this without any feeling of apprehended danger. The "Dean" is a staunch boat. We retired at 10 p. m., and slept enough to last any one 24 hours, arose at six, and took our position on the upper deck for observation—again appeared that interminable levee. Soon we came upon one of those crevasses, where the waters were pouring out upon the plantations like a small river, while there were scores of men (and among them, were a large number of convicts in their striped clothing on a tow boat) hard at work with every available means, endeavoring to repair the levee and thereby prevent further destruction of crops; it was slow work. The force and pressure of the almost resistless water is fearful to contemplate; there has been many crevasses made during the heavy, continued rains of the last few weeks, requiring the incessant labor of hundreds to strengthen and raise the weak points, as almost the whole country on either side, is one continued low level, with only a few higher points at long intervals. Arrived at Baton Rouge at 7:30 a. m., (130 miles above N. O.) once the gay capital of the State of Louisiana, the State House is deserted and ruined and the town looks very much dilapidated. This is the first landing we have made since leaving New Orleans; we were detained four hours by the fog; do not stop at but few places; almost a through boat. We remained only a few minutes, to receive passengers

and freight, and take along side a barge of coal for our steamer; this was unloaded while we kept on our course; soon as it was all aboard, the barge with two men was "turned loose" and left to float with the current to its landing.

The next point of interest on the river is Port Hudson, a place of some interest during the "late unpleasantness," but like a great many other places, not much now. At 170 miles from New Orleans a small town (Bayou La Poudre) under water so that all the streets are seemingly impassable, except in a skiff; the water occupies the lower stories of the houses, while the occupants retire to the rooms above, or retire to high lands further back; as we advance up the river, the waters appear to cover the whole face of the earth, trees look flourishing and beautifully green; it is a forest on the water. We noticed several of those pests of this river termed "snags," large trees which were uprooted and floated for awhile down stream, until finally the top becomes fastened at the bottom of the river, while the trunk remains on the surface or a few feet below it, so that when a boat strikes one of these there is danger of making at least a large leak, perhaps sinking the vessel. We are having a charming trip, as far as scenery is concerned. Red River (1 p. m., 215 miles) all is quiet on board; the passengers are scattered about, many on the forward deck; reading, smoking or chatting, others in the saloon, (like myself) and some dozing away the day in their berths. So gaubing allowed, and there are no sharpens in our crowd; every one seems to be attending strictly to his own business—good practice everywhere.

The further up the river we get, the higher the water is; we pass houses where water is almost up to the floor, which are several feet above the ground, and all is water for miles around them; the people move only in skiffs. As we approach Red River, we notice quite a range of hills, the largest seen since we started—nothing however to compare with those around Vicksburg, where our boys used to burrow while Gen. Grant's army had them surrounded, and they had that "mule soap" and other like inviting dishes.

As we proceed it is water, water, and still higher water; in some places the river is forty miles wide, quietly occupying all the buildings below its level, having driven the owners out and taken forcible possession; we see scores of such instances. From what little you have seen of high water along the noble Tombigbee and its tributaries, you know nothing about a rise in the Mississippi; it would require a thousand of such streams to make one like this, an actual fact, no "California tale," it is a mighty big creek. To say this river is very crooked, will not express it at all—it is tangled; we make nearly every point of compass in two hours.

Shall have to terminate this sketch rather abruptly as night has overtaken us. We have said nothing of the scenery for the good reason, there is none, almost a dead level country, until you reach the highlands some 20 miles below Natchez; we arrived at that city, about 8 p. m., and Vicksburg 7 a. m., where we were glad to step out upon the everlasting hills. S. April 23, 1874.

**Condition of the Freeman's Bank and Branches.**

Washington, April 24.—The Secretary of the Treasury sent to the House to-day the report of the Bank Examiner Meigs, upon the condition of the Freeman's Bank and its branches in the various cities of the North and South. The liabilities of this institution, including those of branches, are \$3,338,896, and its resources \$3,121,008, of which \$106,500 are bad and doubtful debts, showing a deficiency of \$217,888. In other words, the depositors are secured to the extent of about 93 cents on the dollar. There is a discrepancy in amounts due depositors between the deposit and general ledger of about \$40,000, but the examiner thinks this results from carelessness in carrying the accounts forward and opening different accounts. The by-laws were so amended, on January 1st of the present year, as to allow depositors only such interest as the profits of the institution warranted, and the examiner says, if depositors will exercise reasonable forbearance for six or twelve months, under this regulation, it will give the institution time to recuperate from the misfortunes of the past and add largely to the safety of depositors. The Examiner expresses the hope that Congress will still continue to foster an institution which has done so much good and can still do much. The examination of the Washington or main branch shows a discrepancy of over \$45,000 between the amounts reported due depositors and the examiner's figures, and this the examiner attributes to gross carelessness in keeping the books.

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